

## OUR LITTLE GROUP OF AMATEURS

By W. E. HILL  
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Everybody in the audience will say, no doubt, "They don't look as though they were acting at all." Naturalness—that's what Edna and Harold are striving for. Just see how different this love scene is from the average stage affair!

"Oh, Jessamine, my darling, what must you think of me!" That line is the stumbling block for all concerned in the theater workshop-craftsmen's dramatic guild production of Clavering de Pew's little drama, "The Light That Blinds." Clavering is having a terrible time getting Jessamine's husband to say the line properly. Mr. Bowie, who plays the part, is a very efficient bond salesman in the daytime and ought to be intelligent enough not to inhale after every second word!



Frederick is cast for the slave boy, who bounds around without much on, bearing a lute, or a bowl of nectar, or a telegram from the Syrian Princess, as the case may be, in an Oriental playlet that is supposed to be a lot better than anything Dunsany ever wrote. Frederick looks funny now, but wait till the dress rehearsal. He's hardly going to wear anything at all, and maybe he'll be all gilded!



The character man. Joe is given little character bits whenever there are any. Joe, though not a very good actor, is a splendid bookkeeper and extremely handy to have on hand when the finances become involved.

Somebody's mamma, chaperoning very heavily from the rear of the hall. Her daughter is a beggar in the Dunsany play, and mamma can't see why they should have cast Marjorie for such a common part! For Marjorie simply can't even simulate commonness!



The dress rehearsal of "Mixed Couples" is going splendidly. It begins to look as if the show would be over by 1 o'clock at the latest on the opening night. "Mixed Couples" is a very clever comedy, written by a leading member of the "Community Workshop Comrades," Mrs. Rosemary Beebe by name, and it is all about an old couple who see a newly wedded pair quarreling and decide to show them how foolish it is to quarrel by staging a fight of their own. Enter the maid and the butler. Old and trusted family servants that they are, they decide to show the old couple how foolish it is to quarrel. Whereupon they do a make-believe quarrel. Well, it all turns out that the young couple were only rehearsing a movie scenario and weren't really quarreling at all. Curtain.



The prompter, having entirely lost track of the lines, goes out for a smoke



The eleventh hour substitute, called in to take the leading lady's place when that young lady went under with tonsillitis. You will find the lady substitute in the wings at the dress rehearsal saying whole passages to herself over and over and over. And when they give the public performance she will skip half an act or so, thereby endearing herself to the entire cast.



Harriet has a really big part in a one-act thriller called "Hydrophobia." In it she goes mad, bites her husband, her lover, two doctors, a trained nurse, her husband's mistress and a char-woman. They all go mad, too. Harriet is being heard in her part by a bashful swain, who hadn't bargained for quite so much realism behind scenes.



The property lady, who sits in the wings and successfully impersonates "a noise without" or "crash, off stage, followed by moaning." Sometimes the noise without comes at the wrong time and then the property lady has to stand for a lot of temperament from the actors.



Scene behind the scenes, showing the howling, growling mob clamoring at the gates of the Emperor's palace.